

175* was the husband of a Greek princess, and the son of this union
 643 eventually became the consort of Gytha, daughter of the Saxon
 631 Harold who fell at Hastings in 1066. Kiev was thus united
 with contemporary European states by a series of dynastic
 alliances foreshadowing the customs of modern times.

175* Yet for all his power and wealth, Yaroslav governed by the
 643 same simple mechanism that had prevailed under Vladimir.
 The prince won his position by force and maintained it by personal
 supremacy, supported by Varangian mercenaries recruited
 from Scandinavia whenever domestic levies proved insufficient
 or disloyal, and consulting with his chief military aides, with
 the city elders, or with church dignitaries on matters of general
 • [671] policy. Yaroslav began the codification of customary civil and
 [795] ecclesiastical law, encouraged both translations and original
 literature, and endeavored without success to emancipate the
 Russian Church from the Byzantine patriarchate. By his crushing
 victory over the nomad Pechenegs before the walls of Kiev
 in 1036, he made the marches of his principality safe for thirty-
 five years.

175* Beside rebuilding his father's Church of the Tithe after it
 643 was damaged by fire in 1017, he carried out a large-scale construction
 346 program which made Kiev one of the most notable
 532 medieval cities. His great cathedral of Saint Sophia in Kiev,
 with its five apses and thirteen cupolas, still contains the largest
 extant yardage of eleventh-century Byzantine frescoes and a
 series of remarkably preserved mosaics of impressive beauty.
 This is the one medieval Russian church which has been exhaustively
 studied by American archaeologists in cooperation
 with native Russian colleagues.

175* The underlying weakness of the Kievan principality lay in
 643 the fact that its stability was assured only by the prestige and
 186 ability of the ruling prince. There was as yet no sentiment of
 631 solidarity, national unity, and group interest which guaranteed
 that the whole system would not be overthrown by some ambitious
 and resolute rival from among the kindred princes in
 outlying cities loosely subject to the authority of the prince of
 Kiev and envious of his power and wealth.